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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Holy Father, we join with Americans across our land in the celebration of National Police Recognition Week. We gratefully remember those who lost their lives in the line of duty. Particularly, we honor the memory of our own officers in the United States Capitol Police: Sergeant Christopher Eney on August 24, 1984 and Officer Jacob Chestnut and Detective John W. Gibson on July 24, 1998. Thank you for their valor and heroism. Continue to bless their families as they endure the loss of these fine men.

May this be a time for us as a Senate family to express our profound appreciation for all of the police officers and detectives who serve here in the Senate. They do so much to maintain safety and order, knowing that, at any moment, their lives may be in danger. Help us to put our gratitude into words and actions of affirmation. May we take no one for granted.

Now we dedicate this day to serve You. Bless the Senators as they confront issues with Your divinely endowed wisdom and vision. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today the Senate will immediately begin consideration of S. 254, the juvenile justice bill, with debate only until 12 noon. Amendments are anticipated after noon, and therefore rollcall votes can

be expected during today's session of the Senate. Members will be notified as votes are ordered with respect to this legislation.

The majority leader encourages Members who intend to offer amendments to work with the chairman and ranking member to schedule a time to come to the floor to debate those amendments.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VOINOVICH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

VIOLENT AND REPEAT JUVENILE OFFENDER ACCOUNTABILITY AND REHABILITATION ACT OF 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to S. 254 with debate only until noon. The clerk will report the bill.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 254) to reduce violent juvenile crime, promote accountability by and rejuvenation of juvenile criminals, punish and deter violent gang crime, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am pleased that today the Senate will begin consideration of the Violent and

Repeat Juvenile Offender Accountability and Rehabilitation Act of 1999.

There are few issues that will come before the Senate this Congress that touch the lives of more of our fellow Americans than our national response to juvenile crime. Crime and delinquency among our young people is a problem that troubles us in our neighborhoods, in our schools and in our parks. It is the subject across the dinner table, and in those late night, worried conversations all parents have had at one time or another. The subject is familiar—how can we prevent our children from falling victim—either to crime committed by another juvenile, or to the lure of drugs, crime, and gangs?

Their concerns are shared by all of us. Most of us are parents. Many of us are now proud grandparents. We have dealt with the challenges of raising children—the joys and the trying times. But for today's parents, the challenges they face are more complex. The temptations children confront come from many different directions and parents seemingly have less and less control over what it is their children are exposed to.

There is a sense among many Americans that we are powerless to reverse this trend, that we are powerless to deal with violent juvenile crime, that we are powerless to change our culture. It is this feeling of powerlessness which may restrain our collective ambition for meaningful, penetrating solutions in the wake of the Littleton tragedy. As Dr. William Bennett said recently on a national talk show, if the two students who committed the murders at Columbine High had "carried Bibles and [said] Hail the Prince of Peace and King of Kings, they would have been hauled into the principal's office." Instead, these young people who committed these crimes saluted Hitler and they were ignored. Ironically, it seems the only time we promote morality in school these days is when mourners

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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